

Title: Money Follows the Person - Planning Grant
Section: 2403
State Option

Overview:

On July 26, 2010, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a grant solicitation for the Money Follows the Person Planning grants. CMS recognized that States will be required to provide needed resources to develop and submit a Draft Operational Protocol to meet the requirements of the 2011 Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration by January 7, 2011. Nevada Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP) submitted a planning grant application on September 6, 2010, and on September 25, 2010, received its notice of grant award in the maximum amount of \$200,000.

Nevada will use funds from this planning grant to develop and submit the grant application for the MFP Rebalancing Demonstration to CMS in early January 2011.

The planning grant will support three principal activities:

- (1) engage stakeholders and establish a process for ongoing stakeholder involvement;
- (2) review best practices and lessons learned from states participating in the MFP Program;
and
- (3) design a draft Operational Protocol (OP) that best meets the needs of Nevadans. The Operational Protocol is an integral requirement of the 2011 Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration grant application.

The importance of stakeholder involvement in developing the Draft OP is clearly recognized. An MFP Task Force will be assembled to create the system assessment and gap analysis, and provide ongoing guidance to the project. The Task Force will be comprised of seniors, individuals with disabilities, family members, caregivers, advocates, providers, community support agencies, and State officials. The MFP Task Force will: (1) provide input to the draft OP and ensure that the OP has appropriate goals and realistic methods for achieving them; (2) help communicate the project's goals and methods to the larger Nevada community; and (3) provide ongoing guidance for the planning and implementation work that follows.

The primary issues to be addressed as part of Nevada's planning efforts include:

- What should be the goals of the project and what are the target populations to be served?
- How will individuals learn about the program, the services available, transitional agency supports, and whether the program is the right choice for them?

- What might be the procedures for obtaining informed consent and are there statutory or regulatory barriers that need to be addressed?
- What are the housing issues that impede the transition from institutions to the community?
- How will Nevada measure the quality of services and success of the MFP Rebalancing Demonstration program?

Nevada's planning efforts will build upon information delivered as part of its Real Choice Systems Change (RCSC) Grant and the 2009 Nevada State Profile Tool. As part of the RCSC grant, Nevada evaluated progress made in balancing the provision of long-term support services between institutional and community settings, and identified barriers to community placement.

To support the MFP Task Force and assist with the development of the draft OP, funds from this planning grant will be used to engage consulting resources. The most important deliverable to be developed using funds from this planning grant initially will be a draft OP that addresses each of the areas identified in the MFP Demonstration Program grant application. Subsequently, the final OP will be completed for approval by CMS.

Targeted Population: This planning grant does not have a targeted population. However, the Draft OP must target populations that meet statutorily defined requirements outlined in § 6071 of the DRA and amended by § 2403 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Fiscal Impact: Nevada received \$200,000 in federal funding for planning activities. There is no state matching funds requirement.

Applicability to Nevada: Availability of federal funding for planning activities increases Nevada's possibilities for success in the competitive Money Follows the Person grant application, due January 7, 2011.